

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 103

By Staples

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the week of September 8-14, 2019, as "African-American Breast Cancer Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer incidence and the second leading cause of cancer mortality in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, national data shows that African-American women are forty percent more likely to die from breast cancer than Caucasian women; for African-American women who reside in Tennessee, that rate is an alarming sixty percent; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer is also more common in African-American women under the age of forty-five; they are also diagnosed at younger ages with more aggressive breast cancers; and

WHEREAS, seeking to raise awareness of the crisis and reduce the mortality rates of African-American women from breast cancer, the Alliance House Community Coalition, located in Knoxville, hosted its first annual Breast Cancer Awareness Week in 2018 to educate the local community about the breast cancer rate disparity in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the week-long event kicked off with a Facebook Live discussion with Lea Bradley of the American Cancer Society and Imelde Marquilem of Gene Testing on the role of genetic markers in African-American women and the need for early-detection screenings to reduce breast cancer mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, the week's offerings included health screenings, flu shots, and the distribution of information on breast cancer from local healthcare providers and organizations, as well as a final Facebook Live discussion with Dr. Jillian Lloyd, a surgical oncologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, who shared insights on breast cancer disparities,

discussed warning signs and symptoms, described how to perform proper breast self-exams, and identified locations that provide breast cancer screenings; and

WHEREAS, this year's event, to be held the second week of September, will include a walk at Chilhowee Park to raise money and awareness, a fundraiser, and an awards ceremony to recognize breast cancer survivors and those currently fighting breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we applaud this exemplary effort to raise awareness and educate the people of Tennessee about breast cancer disparities and the importance of early testing and treatment in order to save the lives of countless individuals in our State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the good people of Alliance House Community Coalition as they commemorate the week of September 8-14, 2019, as "African-American Breast Cancer Awareness Week" to raise awareness and reduce breast cancer-related mortality disparity rates among African-American women in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.